

**REMARKS:**

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 13 and 17-20. Claims 13 and 17-19 are amended herein, and claim 20 is cancelled herein without prejudice. Claims 1-12 and 14-16 remain cancelled. No new matter is presented.

Support for the amendments can be found at least in Fig. 2A, Fig.7 (operation S5), Fig.12 (operation S33) and corresponding texts of the figures.

Thus, claims 13 and 17-19 are pending and under consideration. The rejections are traversed below.

**REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):**

Claims 13, and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,308,164 (Nummelin) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,557,515 (Abbruzzese) and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,381,610 (Gundewar). As mentioned above, claims 19 and 20 are cancelled without prejudice.

Nummelin does not teach or suggest "storing a plurality of elements forming tasks... each of said plurality of elements including a user identifier requesting authorization and/or repudiation reasons and a date of authorization and/or repudiation" and "retrieving repudiation reasons of elements stored [in relation to] elements forming a task to be electronically authorized and a user requesting authorization of said task", as recited for example in claim 13. See also claims 17 and 18 reciting similar features.

Instead, Nummelin discusses validation of fields defined by the system for imposing restrictions on values that the system accepts in the fields (i.e., length of text and syntax) (see, col. 7, lines 24-37, col. 8, lines 49-59 and col. 11, lines 4-16).

As discussed above, claims 13, 17 and 18 patentably distinguish over Nummelin. Further, as Abbruzzese merely discusses a diary function that records specified date of a current claim and does not consider records of the current claims with records of previously reviewed other claims, Abbruzzese does not cure the deficiencies of Nummelin regarding claim 13, 17 and 18 of the present application.

Abbruzzese does not teach or suggest "displaying said retrieved repudiation reasons of said elements stored [based on previous review] and retrieved repudiation reasons for the user

in association with said elements of the task to be electronically authorized", as for example recited in claim 13. See also claims 17 and 18.

In contrast, Abbrussese is directed to an operator set reminder for displaying a specific claim at a specified date (see, col. 64, lines 55-65).

On the other hand, Gundewar at col. 5, line 14 through col. 6, line 4, referred to by the Examiner, only mentions the wording "Perform Checkpoint Review" and fails to teach or suggest the claimed identification of "a checkpoint", as taught by the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully submit that the mere mention of "Perform Checkpoint Review" in Gundewar does not enable the subject matter of the invention including the claimed "checkpoint" alleged to be taught.

Gundewar does not teach or suggest that "of said elements forming the task to be electronically authorized, an element among said elements displayed is designated as a check point for review based on a number of said retrieved repudiation reasons for the task and the user, and an accumulated number of cases of repudiation reasons within a designated term is displayed as the check point", as recited in claim 13.

The cited references do not teach or suggest "identifying elements of the current task that match repudiated elements of the previously reviewed tasks of the user" and "providing a ratio of repudiation reasons within a designated term for said elements identified", as recited in claim 19. Instead, the fields in Nummelin only deal with current entry of values, the diary function of Abbruzzese only serves as a reminder for a particular claim and Gundewar merely mentions "Perform Checkpoint Review."

It is respectfully submitted that none of the cited references, alone or in combination, teach or suggest identifying "a checkpoint" where "an accumulated number of cases of repudiation reasons within a designated term is displayed as the check point" (claims 13, 17 and 18) and "providing a ratio of repudiation reasons within a designated term for said elements identified" (claim 19).

Claims depending from the independent claims include all of the features of that claim plus additional features which are not disclosed by the cited references.

Therefore, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**CONCLUSION:**

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.


Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By:   
Temnit Afework  
Registration No. 58,202

1201 New York Avenue, N.W., 7th Floor  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501